

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
OCALA DIVISION

CHRISTOPHER L. EDWARDS,

Petitioner,

v.

Case No. 5:20-cv-313-Oc-34PRL

SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS, et al.,

Respondents.

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**ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Petitioner Christopher Edwards, a pretrial detainee, initiated this action on June 29, 2020,<sup>1</sup> by filing a pro se petition for writ of habeas corpus (Petition; Doc. 1). In the Petition, Edwards requests that the Court dismiss two of his pending state criminal cases.<sup>2</sup> Petition at 8. Generally, federal courts should not interfere with pending state court criminal proceedings. Younger v. Harris, 401 U.S. 37, 46 (1971). “Federal courts have consistently recognized this limitation on enjoining state criminal prosecutions unless one of a few narrow exceptions is met.” Hughes v. Attorney Gen. of Fla., 377 F.3d 1258, 1263 (11th Cir. 2004). Those exceptions are: “(1) there is evidence of state proceedings motivated by bad faith, (2) irreparable injury would occur,[<sup>3</sup>] or (3) there is no adequate

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<sup>1</sup> See Houston v. Lack, 487 U.S. 266, 276 (1988) (mailbox rule).

<sup>2</sup> Because Edwards brings this petition during the pre-trial posture of his criminal proceedings, the Court construes the Petition as if filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Hughes v. Attorney Gen. of Fla., 377 F.3d 1258, 1261 (11th Cir. 2004).

<sup>3</sup> The Court notes that “certain types of injury, in particular, the cost, anxiety, and inconvenience of having to defend against a single criminal prosecution, could not by themselves be considered ‘irreparable’ in the special legal sense of that term.” Younger, 401 at 46. To establish irreparable harm, “the threat to the [petitioner’s] federally protected

alternative state forum where the constitutional issues can be raised.” Id. at 1263, n.6 (citing Younger, 401 U.S. at 45, 53-54). Here, Edwards has not alleged the existence of any exception to this general principle; therefore, the Petition is due to be dismissed. Accordingly, it is

**ORDERED:**

1. Edwards’s Petition (Doc. 1) is **DISMISSED without prejudice**.
2. The **Clerk** shall enter judgment dismissing this case without prejudice, terminate any pending motion, and close this case.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in chambers, this 13th day of July, 2020.

  
MARCIA MORALES HOWARD  
United States District Judge

Jax - 8  
c:  
Christopher L. Edwards #65511

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rights must be one that cannot be eliminated by his defense against a single criminal prosecution.”